

CATHERINE'S EMBASSY TO FLORENCE

to make terms. Not daring to admonish him, and relying upon the fact that five of his colleagues were their adherents, the captains of the Party offered to meet him half-way, by promising that in future no one should be admonished upon mere suspicion, unless he were really a Ghibelline, nor any name put to the ballot for admonishing more than three times. These pledges were flagrantly violated a few weeks later (Ristoro Canigiani, be it noted, being no longer in office), when Bettino Ricasoli, who was then *proposto* of the captains, wishing to admonish two of Salvestro's adherents, had the doors of the palace locked and the voting repeated twenty-two times until he had his will. The more violent spirits in the faction, led by Lapo da Castiglionchio, proposed to surprise the Palazzo Vecchio and reform the State in favour of their party. Piero degli Albizzi, however, induced them to postpone the execution of this treacherous plan until the feast of St. John, when the Signoria would go to see the palio run, the palace would be deserted, and the city would swarm with men from the contado. Then would be the time to bring out the old lily standard of the Guelfs, occupy the palace with arms, and raise the whole city to the cry of *Viva il Popolo e la Parte Guelfa*.

But they were anticipated. On June 18, Salvestro, being *proposto* of the Signoria for that day, assembled the Colleges and the Council of the People, the former in the Palazzo Vecchio, the latter in the adjoining palace of the Captain, and presented a petition to the Signoria, praying that all the provisions against the magnates of the city and contado, especially the Ordinances of Justice, should be renewed and enforced. It was vigorously opposed in the Colleges, and Buonaccorso di Lapo, speaking for the Twelve, denounced the proposal as altogether inopportune.¹ Salvestro then rushed down to the palace of the Captain, and appealed to the Council of the People against his colleagues. A furious tumult arose in the council chamber. A shoemaker, Benedetto di Carlo ne, laid violent hands on Carlo Strozzi : " Carlo, Carlo, the matter will go otherwise than thou thinkest, ¹ *Anonmv Fioreittino*, pp. 243, 504. 237